



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS REGULATION

**DEPARTMENT OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY**

ONE SOUTH STATION

Boston, MA 02110
(617) 305-3500

MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

BETH LINDSTROM
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
AND BUSINESS REGULATION

PAUL B. VASINGTON
CHAIRMAN

JAMES CONNELLY, ESQ.
COMMISSIONER

W. ROBERT KEATING
COMMISSIONER

EUGENE J. SULLIVAN, JR.
COMMISSIONER

DEIRDRE K. MANNING
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

TO: D.T.E. 03-50 Service List
Massachusetts Registered Competitive Local Exchange Carriers

FROM: Joan Foster Evans, Hearing Officer

DATE: July 21, 2003

RE: Verizon's Proposal for a Tri-annual Audit of its Compliance with the
Performance Assurance Plan
Request for Comments
D.T.E. 03-50

CC: D.T.E. Telecom Distribution List
Mary Cottrell, Secretary
Paul G. Afonso, General Counsel
Michael Isenberg, Director, Telecommunications Division
Candice Allgaier, Analyst, Telecommunications Division

On July 8, 2003, Verizon New England, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts ("Verizon") filed with the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") a proposal to amend the Department's requirement of an annual audit of its compliance with the Performance Assurance Plan ("PAP"), to a review that would be conducted on a tri-annual basis. Verizon recommends that its next PAP audit be performed in 2005. In this notice, the Department is requesting comments on the proposed audit requirement change.

I. BACKGROUND

In our Order Adopting Performance Assurance Plan, D.T.E. 99-271, at 32-33

(September 5, 2000), the Department established a requirement that Verizon data generation and performance reporting under the PAP be audited on an annual basis. The Department required that the audits be performed by an independent auditor, selected by the Department through a competitive bidding process, and paid for by Verizon. The Department further required that Verizon consult with Department staff about the parameters of the bidding and selection process.

In the fall of 2002, an independent auditor conducted the first audit of Verizon's compliance with the PAP. The audit was completed in January 2003, and covered data from the month of May 2003. After the auditor issued its final report, the Department issued a Letter Order on March 13, 2003, concluding that the audit demonstrated that Verizon was in compliance with the PAP. Performance Assurance Plan, D.T.E. 99-271 (March 13, 2003). See the Department's website for documents relating to the first audit, www.mass.gov/dpu/.

On March 28, 2003, Verizon filed a request for extension from the requirement that it initiate the bidding process for the second annual audit in the first quarter, 2003. That requirement had been established by the Department in a Letter Order on September 16, 2003. The Department has not ruled on the extension request, and will deem the current proposal as superseding the extension request.

II. REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

The Department invites interested persons to file written comments on Verizon's proposed change to the PAP audit requirement no later than the close of business, **Monday, August 11, 2003**. Reply comments shall be filed by **Monday, August 25, 2003**. One original and (3) three copies of initial and reply comments must be filed with:

Mary Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02110

In addition to filing a paper copy of written comments, commenters must, if possible, file comments in electronic format by e-mail attachment to dte.efiling@state.ma.us (copy to Joan.Evans@state.ma.us). The electronic filing must specify: (1) the case caption; (2) the docket number (D.T.E. 03-50); (3) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (4) a brief descriptive title of document (e.g., comments). The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and phone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be written in either Word Perfect (naming the document with a ".wpd" suffix) or in Microsoft Word, (naming the document with a ".doc" suffix). Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. Documents submitted in electronic format, as well as Verizon's filing, will be posted on the Department's website, <http://www.mass.gov/dpu/>.

For questions on this matter, please contact Joan Foster Evans, Hearing Officer, at 617-305-3613 or Joan.Evans@state.ma.us.